

## **Minutes of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee of June 5, 2008**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Town Clerk, the Sustainable Energy Committee (Committee) met at 7:05 p.m. in the second Floor Meeting room at 141 Keyes Road.

Present:

Pamela Hathaway

Sally Hughes

Brian Crounse

Tyke Crowley

Mr. Crounse convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m..

### **Review of Minutes from May 6, 2008**

Mr. Crowley moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Hughes seconded. All voted in FAVOR.

### **Discussion on Alfred H. Sawyer Conservation Fund (Fund) Application Process**

Mr. Crowley presented the application from the Beede Center to replace the pool pumps at an estimated cost of \$11,170 with an expected payback of 5.6 years and to install Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) for the pumps at an estimated cost of \$23,240 with an expected payback of .7 year. Due to the lack of depth of the energy audit, the Beede Center can't estimate total cost and total payback. It is very likely that the payback period will be significantly less at around 1.5 years. Also, the audit doesn't note whether pumps exist with such VFDs and can be installed as one unit or are separate pieces of equipment.

Ms. Hathaway commented that the Beede Center should place some signs acknowledging the project and Fund.

Mr. Crowley suggested that the Beede Center could put it on the web and maybe be willing to participate in a newspaper article written by the Committee.

Ms. Hughes moved that the CSE recommend to the Town Manager to fund in its entirety the proposal by Beede Center to replace the pumps and variable speed motor for a cost of approximately \$40,000 with the following requests:

To increase educational opportunities:

- 1) Acknowledge project and funding source on their web site.
- 2) Please a permanent sign in a highly visible area acknowledging the project and funding source.
- 3) Be willing to participate (e.g. provide a quote) for a newspaper article written by the committee.

Ms. Hathaway seconded. All voted in FAVOR.

Mr. Andrew Proulx noted that the pumps might have high salvage value.

Ms. Crounse moved to re-open and amend the previous motion to include the recommendation that the Beede Center investigate the pumps salvage value. Ms. Hughes seconded. All voted in FAVOR.

### **Update on Town Audits**

Mr. Crowley updated the Committee on the progress for the Town-wide audits. He noted that the Town and the School will cover some of the costs; however, the CMLP is supportive of the idea, but is discussing responsibilities for covering the costs and benefit to rate payers. He briefly noted their concerns and mentioned that he will bring the Committee's reasoning to the CMLP at a meeting scheduled for Monday.

The Committee supplied the following reasons and benefits of the CMLP participating with the audits:

- Town Facility Managers needed more direction;
- Different scope, different task;
- Starting point—all buildings have the same baseline;
- Opportunity to address peak load;
- Interconnection will result in more significant energy savings;
- Economies of scale; and
- Consistency in Review.

He also noted that the members received the RFP for the Town-wide audit and suggested that provisions for reducing peak load should maybe include in the RFP.

### **CSE Committee Charge**

Mr. Crounse asked the members to present their ideas about what the CSE committee can do for projects and how to do.

Mr. Crounse began by saying that he is interested in maybe identifying demand for 'green' electricity, ROI of weatherization/lighting projects, how to get around the owner/renter problem (if renter pays utilities, owner has no incentive to invest, renter has little incentive/opportunity to invest in owner's building), and on-site renewable power generation (e.g. biomass or solar).

Ms. Hughes briefly described her ideas with promoting solar panels—educational brochure, install panels on school, investigate opportunities for solar installation on municipal buildings; exam what other communities are doing and research possibility for solar farm.

Mr. Crowley presented his ideas, which are:

- Developing an Energy-use policy for departments and employees
- Developing a Peak Energy Action plan—with CMLP to create and help facility managers implement energy action plan to reduce peak load demands –also maybe participate in forward energy market.
- To help members benchmark energy use in Town buildings
- To propose land use policies and implement more sustainable building practices in Concord.

Mr. Crowley summarized Mr. Fulman ideas, which were submitted in writing as he was unable to attend.

- Continue working with the Town Manager in recommending the best use of Sawyer Trust Funds.
- Work proactively with any contemplated Town/School or quasi/public (library, public housing, affordable housing) building program to ensure that such programs address sustainable energy benefits/concerns from the project outset.
- Prepare materials that might be helpful to architects and builders in the Concord community in familiarizing them with sustainable energy opportunities.
- Continue to gain visibility for CSEC in promoting sustainable energy through newspaper articles, workshops (maybe on a Saturday) and joint participation with other community groups active in this area.

Mr. Crounse commented that the three areas for opportunity to reduce total demand are conservation, efficiency and renewable energy generation.

Mr. Dan Gainsboro noted that it seems the ideas also can be categorized in four major areas: measurement and quantification; projects; awareness and legislative.

Mr. Andrew Proulx commented that there is an opportunity for integration with other Town groups such as Concord CAN.

### **Request Support Training at Library**

Mr. Crowley noted he had received a request to write a letter on behalf of the Library to CMLP in support of receiving funds for staff training to better manage and lower energy consumption. He is awaiting further information on this training and will email members any information he receives for the discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Crounse noted that the training is for properly operating the lighting system. Mr. Crowley moved that the CSE Committee write a letter to the Town Manger and the CMLP in support of funding for staff training to properly manage the lighting systems. Ms. Hughes seconded. All voted in FAOVR.

#### **Reschedule July 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Mr. Crounse explained that we might have issues with getting a quorum at the July 1<sup>st</sup> meting and the Committee needs to reschedule. Mr. Crowley volunteered to coordinate an email to see if people are available on July 7<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Other Issues**

Mr. Crowley commented that Dinny McIntyre is the new Board of Selectmen (BOS) representative, and she wanted to know if there is anything that she can do for the Committee. Mr. Crowley preferred that he would ideally like to have all members on the Committee be attending the meetings, but the Committee often has issues with a quorum and needs more people willing to get involved. He mentioned the idea of having her talk to Committee members to either begin attending meetings or resign so the Committee can benefit from active members, which Committee agreed. Mr. Crounse would also like to see if the profile of the committee can be raised.

#### **Tasks Assigned**

Pamela Hathaway—Category members ideas for projects and tasks

Sally Hughes—Investigate possible sign and content on it

Brian Crounse—Write the letter on behalf of the Library regarding educational training

Tyke Crowley—Draft recommendation letter for the Beede Center application for the Fund present the Committee's rationale for level two audits to the CMLP, and talk to the BOS representative.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Tyke Crowley,

Clerk